

5,283,733) or Born *et al.* (US 5,949,679). Further, in the *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103* section of the Detailed Action, dependent claims 6-12, 23-28, and 39-40 were rejected as obvious over either Colley or Born *et al.* in view of Lyon (US 6,074,312). However, for the following reasons, it is submitted that all of these claims are allowable over all of these references taken either singly or in combination.

In the examiner's remarks, the examiner contends that: 1) it is implicit in golf courses to have holes numbered in specific locations around the golf course, and 2) it is well known in the art of golf course gaming to have GPS locators to supply constant location information to a central data base. However, even though such contentions are not disputed, such contentions are not particularly relevant as none of the cited prior art documents discloses what is claimed, namely the provision/sending of the hole number to a data terminal so that it is available electronically to that terminal without being entered during play/use by, for example, a player. This feature of the present invention is discussed on page 10 of the present specification, where it is explained that the terminal 40 "instructs players to enter the number of strokes for the previous hole" (lines 13 and 14), without any further information being requested. It is then explained from line 31 that:

[a] location number identifies each micro-terminal during installation. At the tee-off point of the ninth hole the associated micro-terminal is identified as terminal number 8.... By this method of identification, the player is not required to enter the hole location number, as it is entered automatically for them by the terminal.

Claim 1 has thus been amended to more clearly recite this location feature which has previously been argued. In particular, the “data indicative of [a data input means’s location]” is now defined as being expressed

in terms of said phases [of said sport or game] so that said respective location data is available electronically to said respective data input means during the phase of said sport or game with which said respective data input means is associated without been entered during said sport or game;

Like amendments have been made to the other independent claims.

It is thus submitted that the invention so defined is both novel and inventive over the cited prior art documents.

In particular, the disclosure of Colley makes no explicit reference to such a feature. Indeed, as discussed in the applicant’s previous submission, Colley teaches—if anything—*against* each player’s unit “knowing” where it is located, as the system of Colley requires that the player or a cup sensor indicate when a hole has been completed. This is unnecessary with the present invention, in which the entering of a score at—for example—terminal 8 (associated with the eighth hole) itself confirms the completion of that hole. This is because the terminal “knows” its location in terms of holes, and not merely in terms of GPS coordinates or the like, and so knows that data entered therein can immediately be associated with that hole.

Similarly, Born *et al.* are also silent concerning this location feature of the present invention. Born *et al.* teach the transmission of raw scores to a central database, the raw score being, as discussed at column 14 lines 4 to 6:

typically packaged in a data structure including the address of the main computer 14 and a message indicating the raw score, a hole identifier, and a participant identifier,

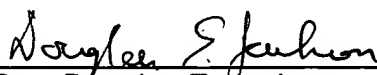
However, there is no teaching that the terminal is itself provided with data indicative of its location in terms of hole number and available to the terminal during the hole without been entered by, for example, a player. It must be therefore assumed that the hole identifier is entered by the player.

It is submitted, therefore, that the claims as amended are clearly novel and unobvious over the disclosures of Colley and of Born *et al.* Further, it is submitted that claims 6-12, 23-28, and 39-40 are patentable over the cited combination of documents, which combination—for the reasons discussed above—fail to define all the features of the present invention.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and such action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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ATTACHMENT
Amendments to the Claims

Following herewith is a complete listing of the claims, including a marked copy of the currently amended claims.

1. (currently amended) A sport or game progress data collection system including:
an electronic central data collection means for accumulating, storing and manipulating data;

a plurality of respective data input means for entering sport or game progress data remotely, each said data input means being respectively distributed about a field of play of said sport or game so that one or more of said data input means are respectively located in association with each of a plurality of phases of said sport or game, and each of said data input means being provided with respective location data indicative of a respective location thereof in terms of said phases so that said respective location data is available electronically to said respective data input means during the phase of said sport or game with which said respective data input means is associated without being entered during said sport or game; and

communications means for communicating between each of said respective data input means and said central data collection means;

whereby progress data corresponding to a respective one of said phases of said sport or game can be entered by a person into any of said one or more data input means located in association with said respective phase, and wherein said system is configured to transmit the progress data so entered and said respective location data of said respective data input means ~~is transmitted to said central data collection means and respective said data indicative of said respective location of the respective data input means transmitting the progress data is also transmitted to said data collection means.~~

2. (currently amended) A data collection system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said system is operable to transmit further data from said data collection means to one or more of said data input means.

3. (previously amended) A data collection system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said data input means includes identification means for tagging any data entered into said data input means with a data tag.

4. (previously amended) A data collection system as claimed in claim 3, wherein said data collection means includes memory means for storing said data associated with said tag.

5. (previously amended) A data collection system as claimed in claim 3, wherein said tag indicates an identity of a person entering said data.

6. (previously amended) A data collection system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said data input means includes card reading means for reading a data card.

E1 7. (previously amended) A data collection system as claimed in claim 6, wherein said data card stores a data tag.

8. (previously amended) A data collection system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said data input means includes card writing means, for storing data onto a data card, whereby said stored data may be data transmitted from said data collection means.

9. (original) A data collection system as claimed in claim 8, wherein said card writing means comprises a smart card writing means.

10. (previously amended) A data collection system as claimed in claim 6, wherein said card reading means comprises a smart card reading means.

11. (original) A data collection system as claimed in claim 10, wherein each of said data input means is operable to associate any data entered into said data input means with a reference read by said smart card reading means from a smart card.

12. (original) A data collection system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said reference corresponds to the identity of a person entering said data and in possession of said smart card.

13. (previously amended) A data collection system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said data comprises golf score data.

14. (previously amended) A data collection system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said data input means includes a data entry terminal including a keyboard or keypad and visual display unit.

15. (previously amended) A data collection system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said data input means includes a proximity sensing means to detect when a user approaches one of said data input means, so that portions of said system can automatically power up only when required by said user and to identify the location of said user or of said data input means.

16. (previously amended) A data collection system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said communication means includes a wireless communication means.

17. (currently amended) A golf scoring system including:

a central score collection computer for accumulating, storing and manipulating golf scores;

a plurality of respective score input terminals for entering golf score data remotely, each said terminal being respectively distributed about a golf course so that one or more of said terminals are respectively located in association with each hole of said course, and each of said respective terminals is provided with respective location data indicative of a respective location thereof in terms of said holes so that said respective location data is available electronically to said respective terminal during the

playing of the hole with which said respective terminal is associated without being entered during the playing of the respective said hole; and

communications means for communicating between each of said respective terminals and said central computer;

whereby golf score data corresponding to a respective one of said holes can be entered into any of said one or more terminals located in association with said respective hole, and wherein said system is configured to transmit said golf score data so entered and said respective said location data of said respective terminal ~~indicative of said respective location of said respective terminal where said golf score data is entered are transmitted~~ to said central computer.

21 18. (original) A golf scoring system as claimed in claim 17, wherein said communications means includes radio communication means so that said terminals and said central computer can communicate wirelessly.

19. (previously amended) A golf scoring system as claimed in claim 17, wherein said communication means is a two way communication means so that said central computer can transmit data including cumulative scores and/or handicaps to said terminals.

20. (previously amended) A golf scoring system as claimed in claim 17, wherein each of said terminals includes identification means for tagging each of said scores entered into said terminals with a corresponding data identity tag.

21. (original) A golf scoring system as claimed in claim 20, wherein said central computer is operable to store said data identity tags associated with said scores.

22. (previously amended) A golf scoring system as claimed in claim 20, wherein each of said tags indicates an identity of a person entering the corresponding of said scores.

23. (previously amended) A golf scoring system as claimed in claim 17, wherein each of said terminals includes a smart card reader, for reading data from a smart card.

24. (previously amended) A golf scoring system as claimed in claim 17, wherein each of said terminals includes a smart card writer, for storing data onto a smart card.

25. (original) A golf scoring system as claimed in claim 24, wherein said stored data is data transmitted from said central computer, such as cumulative core data or handicap data.

26. (previously amended) A golf scoring system as claimed in claim 24, wherein said system includes said smart card.

27. (original) A golf scoring system as claimed in claim 23, wherein each of said terminals is operable to associate any data entered into said terminal with a reference read by said smart card reader from said smart card.

28. (previously amended) A golf scoring system as claimed in claim 27, wherein said reference corresponds to the identity of a person entering said score and in possession of said smart card.

29. (previously amended) A golf scoring system as claimed in claim 17, wherein said central computer is connected to a computer network so that (a) data stored on said central computer can be accessed remotely or (b) said central computer can access golf data stored remotely.

30. (currently amended) A golf scoring system including:

a golf course with a club house;

a central score collection computer for accumulating, storing and manipulating golf scores, located in said club house;

a plurality of respective score input terminals for entering golf score data remotely and for distribution respectively about said golf course so that one or more of said terminals are respectively located in association with each hole of said course, and each of said respective terminals is provided with respective location data indicative of a respective location thereof in terms of said holes so that said respective location data is available electronically to said respective terminal during the playing of the hole with which said respective terminal is associated without being entered during the playing of the respective said hole; and

wireless communications means for communicating between each of said respective terminals and said central computer;

whereby golf score data corresponding to a respective one of said holes can be entered into any of said one or more terminals located in association with said respective hole, and wherein said system is configured to transmit said golf score data so entered and said respective said location data of said respective terminal indicative of said respective location of said respective terminal where said golf score data is entered are transmitted to said central computer.

31. (currently amended) A method for golf scoring including the steps of:

providing each of the holes of a golf course with at least one score input terminal;
providing each of said terminals with location data indicative of a location thereof in terms of said holes so that said respective location data is available electronically to said respective terminal during the playing of the hole with which said respective terminal is associated without being entered during the playing of said respective hole;

progressively entering a respective golf score data corresponding to a respective hole ~~of a golf course~~ into a respective one of said score input terminals located in association with said respective hole;

transmitting each respective said golf score data and said respective location data indicative of a location of each said respective terminal from each respective said terminal to a central score collection computer for accumulating, storing and manipulating of the respective transmitted golf scores; and

storing each respective transmitted said golf score data on said central computer.

32. (original) A method for golf scoring as claimed in claim 31, including calculating a cumulative score by means of said central computer.

33. (original) A method for golf scoring as claimed in claim 32, including transmitting said cumulative score from said central computer to said input terminal.

34. (previously amended) A method for golf scoring as claimed in claim 31, including calculating handicap data by means of said central computer.

35. (original) A method for golf scoring as claimed in claim 34, including transmitting said handicap data from said central computer to said terminal.

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36. (cancelled)

37. (currently amended) A method for golf scoring as claimed in claim ~~36~~31, including progressively entering said score after each hole of said golf course.

38. (previously amended) A method for golf scoring as claimed in claim 31, including entering identification data into said input terminal associated with said score and storing said score and data calculated therefrom identified by means of said identification data.

39. (original) A method for golf scoring as claimed in claim 38, wherein said entering identification data includes reading said identification data from a smart card.

40. (original) A method for golf scoring as claimed in claim 39, including storing said score on said smart card.

41. (previously amended) A system as claimed in claim 1, including means for displaying said progress data and the location of said respective data input means.

E1 42. (previously amended) A system as claimed in claim 17, including means for displaying said golf scores and the location of said respective terminal.

43. (previously amended) A method as claimed in claim 31, including displaying said golf scores and the location of said respective terminal.
